

# An Outline of 1 Corinthians

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## *\*Introduction – 1:1–9*

- I. Dealing with Following Human Wisdom (1:10–4:21)
  - A. An Opening Statement about Quarrels and Divisions (1:10–17)
  - B. Instructions concerning God’s Wisdom (1:18–2:16)
    - 1. God’s Wisdom in the Cross (1:18–2:5)
    - 2. God’s Wisdom and the Spirit (2:6–16)
  - C. Instructions concerning Human Wisdom (3:1–4:13)
    - 1. The Consequences of Embracing Human Wisdom (3:1–4)
    - 2. The Traits of Following Human Wisdom (3:5–4:13)
  - D. A Final Call to Reject Human Wisdom (4:14–21)
- II. Dealing with Immorality, Arrogance, and Greed (5:1–6:20)
  - A. Treatment of Immorality and Arrogance (5:1–8)
    - 1. God’s Judgment on Immorality (5:1, 2b–5, 6b–8)
    - 2. God’s Judgment on Pride (5:2a, 6a)
  - B. Clarification about Dealing with Immorality (5:9–13)
  - C. Treatment of Greed (6:1–11)
  - D. Further Discussion concerning Immorality (6:12–20)
- III. Answering Questions concerning Marriage (7:1–24)
  - A. Question 1: Is Intimacy Forbidden in Marriage (7:1–6)?
  - B. Question 2: Should I get Married if I am Single (7:7–9)?
  - C. Question 3: Should I Divorce my Spouse (7:10–16)?
  - D. Summative Principle: No Change in Status is Necessary to Serve God Well (7:17–24).
- IV. Answering Questions concerning Singleness (7:25–40)
  - A. Reasons to Remain Single (7:25–35)
    - 1. Remain Single Because of the Present Crisis (7:25–28)
    - 2. Remain Single Because of the Shortness of Time (7:29–31)
    - 3. Remain Single to Avoid Divided Loyalties (7:32–35)
  - B. Allowances to Marry (7:36–40)
    - 1. You *Can* Marry your Fiancée (7:36–38).
    - 2. You *Can* Marry after your Spouse Dies (7:39–40).
- V. Answering Questions concerning Idol Meat (8:1–11:1)
  - A. The Principle of Love: We must Love Others Even When we Know we’re Right (8:1–13).
  - B. The Principle of Sacrifice: We must be Willing to Disregard Personal Rights to Promote the Gospel (9:1–23).
  - C. The Principle of Self-Discipline: We must be Disciplined in our Choices (9:24–27).
  - D. The Principle of Caution: We must Avoid Overconfidence in Matters of Liberty (10:1–13).
  - E. The Principle of Flexibility: We must Strive to Relate Properly to God and Others in Matters of Liberty (10:14–30).
  - F. The Principle of Glorification: We must Glorify God in our Choices (10:31–11:1).
- VI. Dealing with Self-centeredness (11:2–34)



- A. Selfishness with Headcoverings (11:2–16)
- B. Selfishness at the Lord’s Table (11:17–34)
- VII. Answering Questions concerning Spiritual Gifts (12:1–14:40)
  - A. Introducing the Topic (12:1)
  - B. The Marks of Genuine Worship (12:2–3)
  - C. A Theology of Spiritual Gifts (12:4–31)
  - D. The Importance of Love (13:1–13)
  - E. The Need for Control (14:1–40)
- VIII. Dealing with Skepticism (15:1–58)
  - A. The Christian Faith rests on Christ’s Death and Resurrection (15:1–11).
  - B. The Christian Experience includes Hope in Bodily Resurrections (15:12–57).
  - C. The Christian Experience involves Perseverance (15:58).
- IX. Answering Questions concerning Giving (16:1–9)
- X. Answering Questions concerning Fellow Apostles (16:10–12)

*\*Conclusion – 16:13–24*

